



July 18, 2017

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
U.S. House Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster,

The Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) is writing in support of the 21st Century Aviation Innovation Reform & Reauthorization (AIRR) Act (HR 2997).

The AMA is a nationwide, community-based organization of nearly 200,000 model aviation enthusiasts. For more than eight decades, AMA has successfully managed our community of model aircraft hobbyists by providing robust safety guidelines and education programs.

Our members follow these strict safety guidelines and have the benefit of a \$2.5 million dollar insurance policy that comes with it. Our members always fly responsibly and have a strong safety record.

The AIRR Act directs the FAA to take a forward-looking and modern approach to aviation in all forms, including model aircraft and manned aviation. This legislation advances aviation across the board, creates opportunity for 21st century innovations and, most importantly, keeps our skies safe for all.

The AIRR Act preserves and strengthens the Special Rule for Model Aircraft and affirms the importance of a community-based approach to managing the recreational community.

Specifically, the AIRR Act provides a clear definition of a community-based organization (CBO) and tasks the FAA with developing a process for recognizing CBOs. This legislation also maintains the current notification requirement for flying near airports, rather than a more restrictive and unrealistic approach that would require permission. In addition, the bill expands the protections of the Special Rule to allow model aircraft to be used as a teaching tool for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education.

We are pleased to support this legislation.

Rich Hanson
President, Academy of Model Aeronautics